



Docket No. 62894 (71589)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: Rioux et al.

Confirmation No.: 1401

U.S.S.N.: 09/935,487

Art Unit: 3738

FILED: August 23, 2001

Examiner: B. Pellegrino

FOR: MAINTAINING AN OPEN PASSAGEWAY THROUGH A BODY LUMEN

Mail Stop RCE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Preliminary Amendment

This application is an RCE of prior U.S.S.N.: 09/935,487, filed on August 23, 2001. The following is in response to the Final Office Action mailed February 24, 2006 and the Advisory Action mailed May 8, 2006. Applicants kindly ask that the above-identified application be amended prior to examination as set forth herein.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 4 of this paper.

A **Conclusion** begins on page 6.